



# SCHOOL BUS, INC.

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## **DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION "POINT OF CONTACT"** **MARCH 2007 NEWSLETTER**

### **New Update Procedure Being Developed for National Specifications**

(Oct. 12, 2006) - A new amendment procedure has been implemented to allow the industry to update guidelines in the National School Transportation Specifications and Procedures rather than wait five years to implement the changes.

A session explaining the new procedure was held at the NASDPTS annual meeting and the 32nd Annual NAPT Conference in Kansas.

Pete Baxter, the steering committee chair for the 15th National Congress on School Transportation and the state pupil transportation director for Indiana, stated that the Congress recognizes that some of the changes or additions to the NSTSP book should not wait until the next Congress. For example, there was no material on school transportation security in the NSTSP book until 2006, five years after September 11, 2001. In order for the NSTSP book to have relevance in the 21st Century, the steering committee believes there must be a method to modify the book when a timely response is necessary."

The new process requires several changes to the way the NCST has been doing business. For example, the state delegations and writing committees from the 14th NCST held last May are requested to remain active until appointment of delegates to the 15th NCST in 2010.

Any topics to be considered in the meantime must be submitted through a state delegation chairperson, a sponsoring organization of the NCST or the NASDPTS Supplier Council. There is a power point presentation for the process on the website [www.ncstonline.org](http://www.ncstonline.org).

### **SDSTA Summer Meeting**

We have secured a speaker from NAPA filters for our summer meeting. He is planning to speak for about 1 1/2 hours, is reportedly very interesting, and can speak about the new fuels, treating coolant, as well as oil. This will be a presentation that will be good for technicians to hear, so please invite them.

Location for the summer meeting is the Crossroads in Huron. If anyone wants to come the night before the room rate is \$65 + tax. Noon meal will be at the Crossroads. The meeting will be held on Friday July 13, 2007 and will start at 10:30 AM.

### **Head Start Legislation Approved by Senate Committee**

The Senate Health, Education, Labor and Pensions Committee approved legislation reauthorizing Head Start this week. The bill authorizes \$7.3 billion for Fiscal Year 2008, \$7.5 billion for Fiscal Year 2009, \$7.9 billion in 2010 and "such sums as necessary" through Fiscal Year 2012. The early education program for children from low-income households would receive \$6.9 billion under the Fiscal Year 2007 spending package, which is awaiting the President's signature. The House Education and Labor Committee is expected to consider similar legislation next month. Head Start was last renewed in 1998 for five years. Appropriators have continued to fund the program while lawmakers have struggled to rewrite the law.

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